

REMARKS

I. Amendment to the Specification and Support for the Amendment

In addition to the amendments to the specification requested in the Preliminary Amendment (filed herewith) and the support outlined therein, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the present amendments to the specification. The present amendments are primarily cosmetic in nature. For example, the amendments replacing “mkl” with “ μ l” simply conforms the application to standard abbreviation usage in the field. Support for these amendments can be found in the application as originally filed, in the Preliminary Amendment, and in the parent application U.S.S.N. 09/736,659, filed 14 December 2000. The present amendments add no new matter.

II. Status of the Claims

Currently, claims 1-32 are pending in the application with claims 1, 4, 9, 12, 15, 16, and 25 being the independent claims. Claims 9-11, 13, 14, 17, and 18 have been amended, and new claims 19-32 have been added. The claims now reflect the language presently appearing in the parent application in claims 1-21, 23, 24, 27, 28, 30-34, 36, and 37 of the parent application.

The amendments to claims 10-11, 13, 14, 17, and 18 are primarily stylistic and have been made in response to the Examiner’s suggestions during prosecution of the parent application. Support for the amendments to claims 9-11 and 18 and for new claims 19-32 can be found throughout the specification as originally filed, particularly on pages 8-16 and 20-27, and throughout the concurrently filed Preliminary Amendment, particularly in Example 7. Additional support for the amendments to claim 9 and for new claims 19-20, 25, and 29-30 can be found on pages 8-12, 15-16, and 18-20 and in the Examples, including Example 7. Additional support for the amendments to claim 9 and for new claim 25 can be

found on pages 8-16 and 18 and in the Examples, including Example 7. Additional support for new claims 21, 23, and 25-32 can be found on pages 8-9, 12, 14-15, and 16-20 and in the Examples, including Example 7. Additional support for the amendments to claims 10-11 and 18 and for new claims 22-23, 25, 27-28, and 31-32 can be found on pages 8, 12-13, 14, 16, and 20 and in the Examples, including Example 7. Additional support for the amendments to claim 9 and for new claim 25 can be found on pages 14 and 18-20 and in the Examples. Additional support for new claims 24-32 can be found on pages 9, 13, and 16-20 and in the Examples, including Example 7.

III. Formal Drawings Submitted Herewith

Applicant respectfully notes that formal drawings (Figures 1-5; 4 sheets), corresponding to the formal drawings submitted in the parent application U.S.S.N. 09/736,659 are submitted herewith.

IV. Conclusion

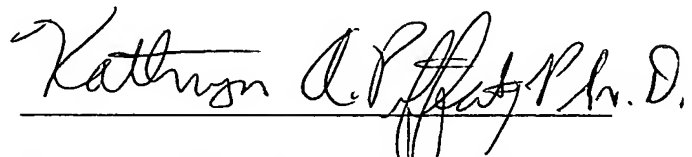
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the present application is respectfully considered in condition for allowance. An early reconsideration and notice of allowance are earnestly solicited.

It is believed that all outstanding rejections have been addressed by this submission and that all the claims are in condition for allowance. If discussion of any amendment or remark made herein would advance this important case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned as soon as convenient.

Applicants herewith include a copy of the request a two-month extension of time in the parent case. Although it is not believed that any additional fee (in addition to the fee concurrently submitted) is required to consider this submission, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge our deposit account no. 04-1105 should any fee be deemed necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 30, 2003

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Kathryn A. Piffat, Ph.D.", written over a horizontal line.

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